

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE BUILDING
OF THE MERGUI-KIRIKHAN ROAD BETWEEN APRIL AND AUGUST 1945.

A F F I D A V I T.

I, VINCENT BENNETT, Major, Royal Army Medical Corps, with permanent address at R.A.M.C. Officers' Mess, Millbank, London, S.W.1., make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner by the Japanese at SINGAPORE on the 15th February 1942 and after passing through various prisoner of war camps I commenced the journey from NAKON PATON on the 11th April 1945 for the purpose of proceeding to a jungle camp which was being used for the accommodation of prisoners of war engaged on the building of the MERGUI-KIRIKHAN Road. The party of prisoners which left NAKON PATON as aforesaid consisted of about six to seven hundred men and two officers, one of whom was Captain CAYLEY, R.A.M.C., and the other myself.
2. On the 13th April 1945 we arrived at the so-called Base Camp, also referred to as KIRIKHAN Camp, and from there set out on a march towards the jungle. This march took four days and on the 17th April I arrived at the so-called TOP Camp with about half the complement of prisoners who had originally set out from NAKON PATON. The other half stayed at a camp about 4 kilometres short of the TOP Camp under the command of the said Captain CAYLEY.
3. The TOP Camp had been used for the accommodation of coolies who had been left before we arrived. There were three very broken down huts, one without a roof. This was the season when it rained almost continuously and in view of the fact that the huts were situated in a ravine surrounded by high trees, we never had the chance to dry our kit and clothing.
4. The food consisted of rice and dry vegetables and was so short in quantity that after about 3 weeks most of the prisoners were suffering from beri and other deficiency diseases. Added to the shortage of food, prisoners were subjected to excessive work, and I remember a period when work went on from about 0830 in the morning until 2 or 3 o'clock the following morning. When this was the case there was no opportunity for prisoners to have meals in camp, and buckets of rice and vegetable stew had to be sent out to the working site.
5. The sick-rate which had been about 30 or 40 men per day rose after about 3 weeks to 60 to 70 men per day, the most usual complaints being deficiency diseases and malaria. In view of the high sick-rate, as aforesaid, I had to ask for some of the worst cases to be evacuated. This was always refused. At that time the Japanese officers in command were Lt. KONDA, Lt. SAITO and another Lieutenant whose name I do not know. These three officers inspected the sick parade every morning and usually agreed with my assessment of their ability to work or to be excused from work as the case may be. Apart from their refusal to permit the evacuation of the worst cases I have no particular complaint against these Japanese officers, except that the officer whose name I do not know, and who spoke quite good English, insisted on sick prisoners (permission for whose evacuation I had at last obtained after unsuccessful attempts lasting about 3 to 4 weeks) carrying, apart from their own kit, two picks each when they were finally evacuated. This evacuation had to take place on foot over a distance of about 17 kilometres. Those prisoners who were unable to walk had to be carried by their comrades on improvised stretchers.
6. Medical supplies were practically non-existent. This was due to the fact that the Japanese medical officer in charge of NAKON PATON Hospital had refused to provide me with any medical supplies when the party left NAKON PATON.

as set out in paragraph 1 above. Serjeant-Major HIRUTA whom I now recognise as No. 281 on plate 23 acted as go-between and messenger between the TOP Camp and NAKON PATON. In spite of the fact that he was frequently told to bring medical supplies with him when he returned from NAKON PATON he never brought such supplies and I suspected that he sold them on the way to coolies in order to obtain money for his own benefit.

7. [In spite of the conditions described above, no deaths occurred among prisoners of war at this camp. Of a total of about 1,000 prisoners of war, however, who had set out from NAKON PATON for the purpose of building the MERGUI-KIRIKHAN Road; about 250 to the best of my knowledge died in the space of about 4 months owing to lack of medical supplies, overwork, inadequate food supplies and the deplorable living conditions.]

SWORN by the said VINCENT BENNETT)
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City)
of Westminster this 1st day of) (Signed) V. BENNETT.
March 1946.)

Before me,

(Signed) F. HONIG.

Captain Legal Staff.
Military Department,
Judge Advocate General's Office, London.

Examined with original affidavit at H.Q. ALFSEA this
sixteenth day of April 1946 and certified a true copy.

(Signed) E.L. ENGLAICH.
Lt.Col., Legal Staff,
War Crimes Legal Section,
ALFSEA, Singapore.

供述書

私即チ本籍西南第一區 /MILLBANK, LONDON/ 英國陸軍軍醫部士官宿舎内英國陸軍軍醫少佐 /VINCENT BENNETT/ 左、如ウ宣誓シ且ツ陳述致ス。

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1. 私一九四三年(昭和二十年)三月十五日 /SINGAPORE/ 於テ日本軍、捕虜トナリ其後各地、俘虜收容所ヲ經テ、一九四五年(昭和二十年)四月十日 /MERGOL-KIRIKHAN ROAD/ 建設ニ從事中、俘虜ヲ收容スル爲ニ使用中、或ルニヤニグル内、收容所ニ往ク目的ヲ /NAKON PATON/ ナコン・パトン カラ旅ヲ始メシタ。前述 /NAKON PATON/ ナコン・パトン カラ去シタ俘虜、一行、約六、百名、英ト二名、士官カニ成リ、士官、一名、英國陸軍軍醫部勤務、ケイリー大尉外ニ私自身デアリシタ。

2. 一九四五年(昭和二十年)四月十三日ニ私共、所謂基地收容所一該收容所、亦一名 /KIRIKHAN/ キリカン 收容所ト稱セラシテナタリニ到着シシタ。其処、私共、該シヤニグルニ向ツテ行進ヲ開始シシタ。

3. 此行進三日ヲ費ヤシテ四月十七日ニ私共 /NAKON PATON/ ナコン・パトン 起兵トシテ去ルシタ。俘虜全員、約半数ト共ニ所謂 /TOP CAMP/ トップ 收容所ニ到着シシタ。他ノ半数、前述、ケイリー大尉、指揮、下ニ此、 /TOP CAMP/ トップ 收容所、ナ前約四料或收容所ニ宿泊シシタ。

4. 該 /TOP CAMP/ トップ 收容所、私共、到着前ニ退去シタ苦力、收容所トシテ使用サシタ居リシタ。其処ニハ三軒、非常ニ破損シタ小屋ガアリシタ。其、中一軒ハ屋根ガアリマセンデシタ。

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當時、殆ンド毎日引續キ雨ガ降ル季節デアリシタ。此ノ小屋ハ高イ樹木ヲ圍ミシタ山峽ニ在リシタ。私共ハ器具ヤ衣類ヲ乾ス機會モ无シ。

RETURN TO ROOM COPY

4. 食物ハ米ト乾燥野菜カラ成リ、少量デアリマシタ。デ
 約三週間後ニハ大部分ノ俘虜ハ脚氣ヤ其他ノ栄養
 失調病ニ悩マサレタ。食物不足ニハ俘虜ハ過度ノ
 勞働ニ服サネバナラナカッタデシタ。而シテ私ハ今デモ
 一時ノ作業ガ朝ノ八時三十分頃カラ翌日ノ午前ニ時乃至
 三時迄繼續シタコトヲ記憶シテ居リマス。
 此ノ様ナ時ニハ俘虜ハ收容所内デ食事ヲ攝ル機会ガ
 有リマセンデシタカラ、米ト野菜汁ノ容ウツバケツヲ
 作業現場迄持ッテ行カネバナラナカッタデシタ。

5. 一日約三。名乃至四。名ノ罹病率ガ約三週間後ニハ
 一日六。名乃至七。名ニ上昇シ最モ通常ノ疾病ハ
 栄養失調病トマラリヤデシタ。

前述ノ様ナ高イ罹病率ニ鑑ミ私ハ此ノ最重症患者
 達ノ若干名ヲ他ヘ移ス様ニ請願セネバナラナカッタ。

斯様ナ請願ハ常ニ拒否サレタノデス

当时ノ日本軍指揮官ハ (LT KONZBE) 斎藤尉官及
 他ノ一名ノ氏名不詳ノ尉官デアリマシタ。

此等三名ノ士官ハ毎朝此等ノ罹病者ノ列ヲ点檢シテ
 私ノ罹病者達ニ対スル作業ニ服スベキカ或ヒハ作業ヲ免
 除サルベキカノ能力算定ニ通例同意シテ呉レマシタ

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No. 3

最重症患者、退去許可拒否ノ点以外ハ私ハ此等ノ日本軍
 士官ニ対シテ何ラ特別ノ不満ハ有リマセシガ私ハ現在氏名不詳、
 英語ヲ相巧巧ニ話シタ士官ニ対シテハ不満ヲ持ツテ居リマス
 假ハ此等ノ痼病俘虏ガ最後ニ退去シク時ニ彼等ガ自身ノ装具
 外ニ各一本ノ鶴嘴ヲ携帯セヌナラヌコトヲ主張シマシタ。
 (該痼病俘虏退去ニ対スル許可ハ私が約四週間ノ間幾度カ
 試ミテ成功シカツタガ力ノ後ニヤット獲得シ得タノ事ニシタ)
 此ノ退去ハ約十七軒ノ距離ヲ徒歩ガ往リ来リナラナカツタ。
 歩行ノ出来ヌ俘虏ハ同ニ合ハセ、擔架ニ乗セテ戰友ガ運搬
 セヌナラナカツタ。

6 医薬品ハ全然有リマセシタ。医薬品ガ無イト謂フコトハ
 NAKON PATON HOSPITAL
 ナコンパトン病院ノ主任日本軍軍医士官ガ此ノ一行ガナコン
 パトンヲ出発スル時ニ私ニ医薬品一切ノ供給ヲ拒否シタ事實ニ因リ
 モナラリマシタ。

7 前述ノ様ニ状態ニモ不拘該收容所ニ於テハ俘虏ハ人モ死
 シマセマシタ。
 MERGLI-KIRIKHAN ROAD
 然シマーガイーキリカン道路ヲ建設スル目的ヲナコンパトンヲ出
 発シタ總計約一〇〇〇名ノ俘虏ノ内約三五〇名ガ私が最も良ク知ル限
 リニ於テ約四ヶ月間ニ医薬品、不足過勞不適ナラシメ食料給與
 反悲惨ノ生活状態ニ起因シテ死シマシタ。

DOC 5125

一九四六年(昭和二十一年)三月一日
Westminster /
Spring Gardens /
Vincent Bennett / 宣撫官

V. Bennett /
(署名)

余、東京に在り
在マント / London / 陸軍省法務局長室

法務官大尉 F. Honig /
(署名)

一九四六年(昭和二十一年)四月十六日
G. H. G. Alfsea /
東南亞細亞陸軍部に於て宣撫書原本ヲ
調査し且つ真実ナル寫本ナルコトヲ證明ス

No. 4

在シンガポール / Singapore /
戦争犯罪法務局 Alfsea /

法務官中佐 E. L. ERGLAECH /
1. エル・トル・クレーー (署名)